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SGA Meeting Minutes

Student Government Association

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Meeting Minutes for November 28, 2012

Rollins College Student Government Association

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The regular weekly meeting of the Rollins College Student Government was held on Wednesday, November 28, 2012 at 6:30 pm, at Rollins College in the Galloway Room, the Chairman and Clerk being present. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as correct.

The Executive Reports were as follows:

- a. President
 - i. Vice President transition
- b. Vice President
 - i. Friendly amendments
 - ii. Updating legislation template
- c. Chief Justice
 - i. Today was the last day to finish everything on your senator contract. If you have not fulfilled all the requirements, you will receive an email from me over break stating that you will have to go in front of the Judicial Board when you come back for the spring semester
- d. Finance
 - i. List of speakers who will be further considered by the WPI board: Arun Gandhi, An-My Le, Orhan Pamuk, John Williams,
 - ii. 6 proposed scholars for Science in Society Series, Tina Fey, Dalai Lama, Maggie Doynne, George Clooney, Elie Wiesel, Cokie Roberts, Ken Burns, and Christiane Amanpour.
- e. Internal Relations
 - i. PSC continued to discuss what constitutes a "plus" under the new teaching load and revised faculty grant applications.
 - ii. Working on making sure the website looks good before break.
- f. Public Relations
 - i. Thanks to everyone who worked on promoting Rolly Trolly and making it visible and present on campus.
- g. Student Life
 - i. Approved a S.H.I.P. proposal
 - ii. Implementing Career Services into RCCs.
 - iii. It was the last meeting of the year until January.
- h. Advisors
 - i. OSIL hired new assistant director.

Special guest Dr. Claire Strom, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, spoke to the Senate about changes to the curriculum. First she talked about the change to 128 credit hours. Her comments as well as Senators' questions follow:

Nothing has been approved YET. This is part of the process of discussion that started a decade ago. Rollins is trying to move into alignment with peer institutions in terms of faculty teaching load (less courses- more research/scholarship) and number of credit hours (32 classes/128 credit hours- only 16 credits per semester. The issue will go

to faculty eventually- if approved, then administration will approve (board of trustees is favorable).

- When would the changes be implemented? Soonest implementation would be next fall.
- How does it affect faculty salaries? Wouldn't affect salary- would adjust load and free up time for research/scholarship/service.
- How does this affect science students? Most dramatic effect; in line with peer institutions (lab classes count as 4 instead of 6 credits).
- How are faculty held accountable? To get promoted, faculty has to do these research/scholarship/service- commitment at Rollins is greater.
- Will it affect honors program? Shouldn't, but new Gen Ed program might.
- Why would we reduce academic commitment for students? Good point, argument has been made- 128 credit hours/Gen Ed reduction (5 less classes) should not change the rigor of majors/minors; other argument is to attract students to Rollins- marketing tactic.
- Doesn't this make each credit hour more expensive... less bang for your buck? Yes- but have to stay in line with other schools.
- With 4 credit hours instead of 6 for lab courses, will non-majors still be attracted to lab courses?
- What about 3/2 program? May end up getting tweaked (would have to take less credits in Crummer).
- Will lose revenue from Holt because students pay per credit hour.
- Will free students up for other courses that they want to take but can't right now.
- Who will this affect? New freshmen for next fall.
- Will we have more students graduating early? Hopefully more graduating ON TIME, not necessarily early. Meant so that students can graduate in four years with four classes per semester.

Next, Dr. Strom talked about the new plan for the General Education curriculum. Four neighborhoods have been chosen. The school is recruiting people to teach the new classes, but struggling with details like how to assess the courses. Science degrees are outliers because it is hard to free up teachers in the area. Students will also have to take "competency classes"- writing, language, math. Considering making Honors its own neighborhood. Getting rid of "alphabet soup." Right now students can't get classes they want and there is no connection between classes. Developing idea of "neighborhoods"- 5 classes about a common theme. Will contain arts, humanity, social science, science, and capstone. Examples: cultures collide, innovation and creativity, etc. Hoping everyone will get one of top two choices with class size of 20.

- Can you switch neighborhoods? Sort of- can switch but only if you are willing to take all 5 courses. Students can take one class outside neighborhood.
- RCC will still be separate but will eventually be folded in.
- Capstone will be team-taught and will be taken depending on when students go abroad, junior or senior year.
- If a student has an AA degree now, Gen Eds are waived. With changes, transfer credits will be harder to get and attracting transfer students will be an issue. There



are still a LOT of wrinkles; ideally would keep students at Rollins instead of transferring.

- Neighborhoods ideally will create a sense of community.
- Alphabet soup is the whole point of a liberal arts degree. Faculty is divided on this issue; many were opposed, see it as taking away rigor of degree.
- In the end, it is really more about the interdisciplinary nature of a liberal arts degree. More about quality over quantity.

Organizational Senator Reports were as follows:

- i. IFC
 - i. Friday IFC/PanHel cookoff 1230-230
- j. REP
 - i. Last event Thursday, keep calm Rep On
- k. OMA
 - i. Search committee will not recommend first candidate, still making decision on second, third candidate will be here tomorrow
 - ii. Duncan supposed to meet with Trustees about Intervarsity issue

During New Business, six pieces of legislation were presented. The full text of the bills and resolutions are located on the Student Government website at <http://www.rollins.edu/sga/documents.html>. Senators' comments and the results of the votes are as follows:

- l. Legislation 1213.06 – Faculty participation
 - i. What is the point of the legislation? Students could go to office hours and there are already Senators that sit on faculty committees. But visitors could be ANY faculty member; they could hear our voices and take them back to other faculty. Would not be mandatory. Skeptical because it takes away sense of students' voices being heard by other students; might take away from sense of student independence. Senate already has faculty coming to speak about specific issues. Yes, but it is an opportunity for faculty to see that Senate is serious. Trying to bridge a gap between faculty and student government. Faculty can already come, this is just encouraging students to reach out to faculty. Is it more efficient to just have faculty come talk about specific issues? This would encourage stronger connections because a lot of faculty don't understand what SGA is about, this is just a suggestion. It is a positive thing- getting Senate's image out there.
 - ii. Legislation was adopted.
- m. Legislation 1213.07 – Constitutional revisions
 - i. Friendly amendment- Change date to 2009. Point of clarification- Constitutional Revision Committee never made any changes through legislation last semester.
 - ii. Legislation was adopted.
- n. Legislation 1213.08 – Minutes transparency



- i. Whose responsibility are the minutes right now? Public Relations Chair.
 - ii. Legislation was adopted.
- o. Legislation 1213.09 – Exploring Rollins Traditions and R-Pride
 - i. Legislation was adopted.
- p. Legislation 1213.10 – Safe housing
 - i. Is the question asking if a student is gay? No, asking if you are *friendly* to the LGBT community. What if someone answers no to the question? The point is to try to pair up people who are compatible; it's just another qualification for matching roommates. It seems like asking this question is kind of personal- like you are trying to separate people. College is about being exposed to situations that you are not comfortable with. This is just to create a safe space. Could this be an optional question? What is the next step? To take it to Res Life. Could be an optional question. Could we amend it to change it to: "Are you comfortable living with an LGBT roommate?" Still doesn't really resolve the issue, would still have to ask if someone is gay. SGA should be a leader of this conversation. Might be better to table it.
 - ii. Motion to close the debate- passed.
 - iii. Amendment- didn't pass.
 - iv. Housing survey won't go out until April.
 - v. Motion to table till next semester- passed.
- q. Legislation 1213.11 – Holiday Funfest
 - i. Sponsor children and host a table- would need an amendment to designate money. Its reading day- Senators might not be able to work a table because of studying.
 - ii. Amendment- only need to attend if you are still at school. Since this is a rough time for everyone, we can remove volunteering and just encourage people to go. Designate \$200 for sponsoring kids- passed.
 - iii. Motion to change Christmas to Holiday Season- passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm.

Carlee Hoffmann, Internal Relations Chair